

**Testimony of Mordechai Levin to the
Military Leadership Diversity Commission
December 2, 2010, The Radisson Plaza Lord Baltimore, Baltimore, MD**

General Lyles, General Becton, distinguished commissioners; thank you for the opportunity to address the commission. For the record, my name is Mordechai Levin, Chair of the Civil Air Patrol Diversity Committee.

I commend the commission's recommendation to remove the Combat Exclusion policy and all other gender restrictive policies. I was moved to tears as I listened to many of the commissioner's comments last month. I vow to do everything in my power to make sure that each commissioner's comments made on the record on this subject are completely and accurately maintained in cyberspace. No matter what else you've done in your lifetime, your daughters and sons, grandchildren and the entire world will forever see your legacy imprinted with your stance on these issues. For those of you who were not present last month, or those of you who want to add to your legacy of valuing inclusion and supporting civil rights, I urge you to go on the record tomorrow to support the revocation of all policies of racism, sexism, and homophobia in our military.

Distinguished commissioners, you have the opportunity to influence public policy in a manner that will immediately expand the pool of qualified minority candidates for careers in the STEM academia and workforce and in the military by hundreds of thousands and increase the pipeline by tens of thousands annually. An estimated 65,000 students graduate from high school every year without legal immigration status. Many of these young people are members of aerospace education school enrichment programs conducted by the Civil Air Patrol. If the DREAM Act becomes law, young people who were brought to this country as children and remained in school or joined the military will be allowed to work toward citizenship. Passage of the DREAM Act would not only enable these young people who grew up here and work hard to capture the American Dream, but to contribute to the country they call "home."

I respectfully suggest the commission as a whole and each commissioner individually speaks on the record tomorrow morning advocating the expansion of Recommendation 7a. "Developing Future Leaders" to include a bullet point stating: The President should issue an executive order implementing, and Congress should pass **The DREAM ACT** legislation that

provides undocumented alien students who graduate from U.S. high schools, who are of good moral character, arrived in the U.S. as minors, and have been in the country continuously for at least five years – the opportunity to earn conditional permanent residency.

The alien students would obtain temporary residency for a six year period. Within the 6 year period, a qualified student must have acquired a degree from an institution of higher learning in the U.S., or have completed at least two years in good standing in a program for a bachelor's degree or higher degree in the U.S. or have served in the uniformed services for at least two years and, if discharged, have received an honorable discharge. Any Alien whose permanent resident status is terminated shall return to the immigration status the alien had immediately prior to receiving conditional permanent resident status.”

I commend this august body for considering bold best practices like the Rooney Rule that the Civil Air Patrol Diversity Committee may be able to employ to achieve the mission of producing a plan with specific, measurable, actionable realistic and time sensitive goals to achieve a membership and leadership proportionally representative in gender, race, and ethnicity to the general population of the United States in the Civil Air Patrol within this decade.

By the end of this month the National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol will officially stand up the Civil Air Patrol Diversity Committee. Many of you in this room, both commissioners and gallery members have graciously volunteered to participate. I am truly humbled.

General Lyles, I only get to see so far because I am perched on the shoulders of a giant. Your diversity leadership is the example I dream of emulating. I thank you and each of the commissioners for your incredible effort that will lead to profound impact in our security, prosperity, and humanity because of our diversity.

We remain a nation grateful for all that you've so selflessly given.